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ABSTRACT

The cultural achievements of Italy are utilized to spur interest in the study of Italian. A weekly, multiple-choice type quiz posted on the Italian bulletin board questions curious passers-by in the areas of fine arts, literature, science, geography, history, and miscellaneous items. Sample items of this motivational device follow a description of test construction. (RL)

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A "Quiz" on Italian Civilization

Giuseppe Antonio Russo

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*A "Quiz" on Italian Civilization**

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(*Author's summary.*—Students of Italian should be made conscious of the rich cultural achievements of Italy in an interesting and effective manner. The following "quiz" is an attempt in that direction.)

DURING the Academic Year 1937-38, primarily to stir up interest in Italian, I conceived the idea of running a little "contest" on Italy. After thinking it over for some time, I finally decided that a multiple-choice test would be the most satisfactory form to use. I therefore planned to have on the Italian bulletin board each week, for a period of five weeks, a set of ten incomplete statements dealing with Italy and things Italian, with four multiple choices from which to complete the statements correctly. At the bottom, a note explained that the correct answers would appear the following Monday, together with a new set of items.

I began working on this "contest" by first jotting down the most evident items in my mind, then the less evident ones, but I soon found out that my own likes, primarily music and art, over-balanced other fields. I knew then that a more objective plan was necessary. With this in mind, I chose the following divisions: Fine arts, literature, science, geography, history and miscellaneous items. Then I tried to have for each set of statements at least one item from each division. This, of course, is still, more or less, subjective, but it does provide for more equal distribution.

The idea proved to be quite successful. Each day I would notice students (and faculty members) working out the correct answers, either individually, or in groups. By the end of the week the sheet would be quite soiled, thumbled, and marked. One Monday morning, not being able to have the next set ready, I found myself visited in my office, or stopped in the corridor, by students who wondered if the "contest" were over.

There was no prize offered . . . just a mental stimulus to make some students realize that Italian was being taught at Miami University, and that Italy had something to offer.

The "quiz" is by no means complete; it is just what the name implies. Considering what Italy has to offer, it could be continued indefinitely. I hope that it will be continued by members of other institutions, for I believe it is a very healthy thing to do. The items that I used are as follows:

1. *Capri* is an island near 1. Rome 2. Florence 3. Naples 4. Milan..... ()
2. *Chianti* is an Italian 1. wine 2. cheese 3. song 4. dish..... ()
3. *St. Francis of Assisi* was the 1. first Italian Saint 2. first Pope 3. founder of the Franciscan Order 4. monk burned at the stake in Florence..... ()

* Thanks are due to Professor Ruth Viola Hunter of Western College for Women for valuable suggestions and criticism.

4. The *Tiber* is a river in Italy which flows through 1. Bologna 2. Turin 3. Florence 4. Rome. ()
5. The *Ceiling of the Sistine Chapel* is one of the principal artistic works of 1. Titian 2. del Sarto 3. Giotto 4. Michelangelo. ()
6. The *Cabots* (Giovanni and Sebastiano Caboto) 1. discovered Newfoundland and Canada 2. discovered the bay of New York 3. explored the Pacific coast for Spain 4. discovered the source of the Mississippi. ()
7. *La Scala* is a famous 1. beach in Venice 2. opera house in Milan 3. temple in Rome; 4. island in the Mediterranean. ()
8. The *Divine Comedy* is the principal literary work of 1. Virgil 2. St. Francis of Assisi 3. Boccaccio 4. Dante. ()
9. The *Appian Way* 1. was built by the ancient Greeks 2. is no longer used today 3. stretches from Rome to Genoa 4. was built by the Romans. ()
10. In the *Venezia Palace* in Rome 1. lives the King of Italy 2. are the offices of Mussolini 3. are found some of the rare Italian paintings 4. Count Ciano spends his vacations. ()
11. *Leonardo da Vinci* painted 1. *Sacred and Profane Love* 2. *The Mona Lisa* 3. *The Madonna of the Harpies* 4. *The Madonna of the Chair*. ()
12. *Giotto's Campanile* is in 1. Rome 2. Venice 3. Florence 4. Siena. ()
13. *Macchiavelli's* principal literary work is 1. *The Betrothed* 2. *The Prince* 3. *The Novellino* 4. *Jerusalem Liberated*. ()
14. *Marconi* 1. developed wireless telegraphy 2. discovered a new planet 3. composed operas 4. developed navigation. ()
15. *Pompei* 1. is a modern city near Naples 2. is a museum in Florence 3. is the seaport of Rome 4. was once buried under the lava of Vesuvius. ()
15. The *Decameron* is the principal literary work of 1. Boccaccio 2. Dante 3. Tasso 4. Petrarch. ()
17. The *Bridge of Sighs* 1. stretches across the Grand Canal in Venice 2. connects the Doge's Palace and the former Prisons of Venice 3. connects Hadrian's Tomb and the Vatican 4. connects the Uffizzi and Pitti Galleries in Florence. ()
18. *Aida* is one of the operatic compositions of 1. Leoncavallo 2. Verdi 3. Puccini 4. Mascagni. ()
19. *Garibaldi* was a great military leader during 1. the struggle between the *Guelfs* and the *Ghibellines* 2. the struggle for Italian Unification 3. the Italo-Ethiopian Conflict 4. the World War. ()
20. *Gorgonzola* is an Italian 1. cheese 2. river 3. wine 4. song. ()
21. *La Donna è Mobile* (Woman is fickle) is a famous aria from the opera 1. *I Pagliacci* 2. *Cavalleria Rusticana* 3. *Rigoletto* 4. *La Sonnambula*. ()
22. *Vigo* 1. is the Italian after whom *Vigo County* in Indiana was named 2. introduced the cultivation of grape vines in California 3. explored parts of North America in the name of the king of England 4. discovered that bodies of different weights fall with the same velocity. ()
23. *Littoria* is 1. an island near Venice 2. one of the oldest Italian cities 3. the new city in Italy built in the region formerly known as the Pontine Marshes 4. one of Italy's seaports. ()
24. *Mazzini* 1. was an Italian patriot who did much to bring about Italian unification 2. is the composer of the opera *Madame Butterfly* 3. is the author of the famous novel *The Betrothed* 4. was a noted Italian tenor. ()
25. The *Rialto Bridge* 1. connects Venice with the mainland 2. stretches across the Tiber in Rome 3. crosses the Grand Canal in Venice 4. is also called *The Bridge of Sighs*. ()

26. *Spumone* 1. is an Italian ice cream 2. is one of the famous towns in the group called *Roman Castles* 3. is a Neapolitan folk song 4. is an Italian cheese. ()
27. *La Tosca* is one of the principal operatic compositions of 1. Verdi 2. Pergolesi 3. Leoncavallo 4. Puccini. ()
28. *The Lido* is 1. the beach of Venice 2. a river in Northern Italy 3. a famous Bell Tower in Venice 4. a type of Venetian lace. ()
29. *The Last Supper* is one of the famous paintings of 1. Botticelli 2. Ghirlandaio 3. Giotto 4. Da Vinci. ()
30. *The Courtier* is the principal literary work of 1. Manzoni 2. Tasso 3. Petrarch 4. Castiglione. ()
31. *Savonarola* was 1. the founder of the Jesuit Order 2. the famous saint of Assisi 3. the monk who tried to reform Florence and was burned at the stake 4. one of the Doges of Venice. ()
32. The famous *Ghiberti Doors* are on 1. the Cathedral of Florence 2. the Baptistry of Pisa 3. the Cathedral of Siena 4. the Baptistry of Florence. ()
33. *Mount Etna* is in 1. Piedmont 2. Tuscany 3. Latium 4. Sicily. ()
34. *Galvani* 1. discovered the electric current which bears his name 2. built the leaning tower of Pisa 3. flew the first airplane in Florence 3. is one of the great artists of the Renaissance. ()
35. *Beatrice* was the inspiration of 1. Boccaccio 2. Dante 3. Petrarch 4. Tasso. ()
36. The *Uffizi* is 1. the Town Hall of Florence 2. a beach on the Adriatic 3. an art gallery in Florence 4. a famous opera house in Naples. ()
37. *Manzoni's* greatest contribution to literature is 1. *The Prince* 2. his *Autobiography* 3. *The Betrothed* 4. *The Late Mattia Pascal*. ()
38. *Carrara* is an Italian 1. automobile 2. marble 3. wine 4. region. ()
39. *La Cavalleria Rusticana* is an operatic composition of 1. Rossini 2. Puccini 3. Mascagni 4. Monteverde. ()
40. *The Guelfs* were members of a political party in Italy during 1. The Renaissance 2. The Middle Ages 3. the *Risorgimento* (struggle for Italian Unification) 4. the Fascist Revolution. ()
41. *Vatican City* 1. is the residence of the king of Italy 2. is under Swiss rule 3. is the residence of the Pope 4. is the seat of the ancient Roman ruins. ()
42. *Amerigo Vespucci* 1. came with Columbus to discover America 2. is the Italian explorer after whom our country is named 3. was often referred to as "The Iron Hand" 4. wrote a great deal about Indian life in Arizona. ()
43. *Raphael* 1. built the cathedral of Florence 2. was the architect of the *Pitti Gallery* in Florence 3. painted *The Madonna of the Chair* 4. painted the frescoes in the Church of St. Francis of Assisi in Assisi. ()
44. *The Inn Keeper* is a famous 1. tragedy of Alfieri 2. novel of Fogazzaro 3. comedy of Goldoni 4. sonnet of Petrarch. ()
45. *Leoncavallo* composed the opera 1. *I Pagliacci* 2. *La Traviata* 3. *Semiramide* 4. *Lucia di Lammermour*. ()
46. *Il Ponte Vecchio* is a bridge which crosses 1. the Tiber 2. the Arno 3. the Po 4. the Adige. ()
47. The man who referred to Italy as being "a mere geographic expression" was 1. Barbarossa 2. Francis I 3. Metternich 4. Louis XIV. ()
48. *Latium* is a region in Italy, the principal city of which is 1. Rome 2. Naples 3. Florence 4. Turin. ()
49. *Il Trovatore* is an operatic composition of 1. Verdi 2. Puccini 3. Bellini 4. Mascagni. ()
50. *Funiculi-Funiculà* is a famous Italian 1. dance 2. song 3. delicacy 4. painting. ()